AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~detecting~~discriminating between types of von-Willebrand disease using a von-Willebrand factor (vWF) binding activity, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting a~~t~~he binding activity of ~~von-Willebrand factor (~~vWF~~)~~ in a sample to a soluble form or a portion of glycoprotein 1b(α) (GPlb(α)) that is not associated with a platelet in the presence of ristocetin or a functionally equivalent substance, wherein the soluble form or portion of GP1b(α) is presented by an anti-GP1b(α) antibody;

(b) determining an amount of vWF-antigen in said sample;

(c) determining a ratio between the binding activity detected under step (a) and the amount of vWF-antigen determined under step (b) for said sample;

(d) comparing the ratio obtained under (c) to a reference range; and

(e) ~~detecting~~discriminating between types of von-Willebrand disease ~~based on~~using the comparison result obtained under step (d).

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein detecting the binding activity under step (a) comprises detecting formation of a complex comprising vWF and the soluble form or the portion of GP1b(α).

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said anti-GPlb(α) antibody~~soluble form or the portion of GPlb(α)~~ is bound to a solid support.

34-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32[[5]], wherein said complex is bound to a solid support by a~~n~~the anti-GPlb(α) antibody~~, by an anti-vWF antibody, by an anti-Factor VIII antibody or by collagen~~.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein detecting the binding activity under step (a) comprises using an anti-vWF antibody~~, an anti-Factor VIII antibody, an anti-GPIb(α) antibody, a collagen or mixtures thereof~~.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein detecting the binding activity under step (a) comprises using a heterogeneous or homogeneous assay.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein detecting ~~vWF~~the binding activity under step (a) comprises using an heterogeneous assay selected from the group consisting of enzyme linked immuno[[ ]]sorbent assay (ELISA), a radioimmunoassay (RIA), an immuno[[ ]]radio[[ ]]metric assay (IRMA), a fluorescent immunoassay (FIA), a chemiluminescent immuno[[ ]]assay (CLIA) and an electro[[ ]]chemiluminescent immuno[[ ]]assay (ECL).

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein detecting the binding activity under step (a) comprises using an homogeneous agglutination assay.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the sample is obtained from blood, serum or plasma of a patient.

42-45. (Canceled)

46. (Withdrawn) A kit for detecting von-Willebrand disease (vWD) comprising:
(a) a soluble form or a portion of glycoprotein 1b (α) (GPIb(α));
(b) a ristocetin, or a functional equivalent substance; and
(c) a solid support.

47. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 46, wherein the said soluble form or the portion of GPIb(α) is a recombinant protein.

48-49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the soluble form or the portion of GPIb(α) is a recombinant protein.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31[[7]], wherein said anti-GPIb(α) antibody is a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, a synthetic antibody, or a fragment of an antibody.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31[[7]], wherein said anti-GPIb(α) antibody ~~or said collagen~~ is detectably labeled.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33[[5]], wherein said solid support is selected from a group consisting of plastic, glass, silicon, metal, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, polypropylene, polyethylene, polycarbonate, dextran, nylon, amylose, natural or modified cellulose, polyacrylamide, agarose, magnetide and any combinations thereof.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said solid support comprises a latex bead.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said agglutination is measured by electric field variation, magnetic field variation, turbidimetric variation or light scattering.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the sample is diluted.

57-59. (Canceled)

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the soluble form or the portion of GPIb(α) comprises an N-terminal domain of GP1b(α).

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the soluble form or the portion of GPIb(α) comprises amino acid residues His1-Val289 of GP1b(α).

62. (Canceled)

63. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the detecting step (a) permits detecting the binding activity of vWF to the soluble form or the portion of GPIb(α) to a lower limit of 0.0005 U/mL of vWF with a coefficient of variation less than 20%.

64. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the sample is plasma or serum.

65. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein discriminating between types of von-Willebrand disease (vWD) in step (e) comprises discriminating Type 1 vWD from Type 2 vWD.